

MAERTENS, et al.
Appl. No. 09/851,138
May 12, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid consisting of a sequence which codes an HCV protein, said polynucleic acid which codes an HCV protein being selected which is chosen from the group consisting of:

(i) the nucleotide sequence emprising consisting of SEQ ID NO:51, and

(ii) a nucleotide sequence emprising consisting of at least 60 up to 447

contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:51; and

~~(iii)~~ the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

Claim 64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid which is selected from:

(i) a polynucleic acid sequence consisting of a sequence encoding an HCV polyprotein emprising consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 52, 138, 155, 174, and 190,

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i).

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66. (Currently Amended) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~to any of claims 63 to 65~~.

67. (Currently Amended) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

- transformation of an appropriate isolated cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~to any of claims 63 to 65~~ has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

- culturing ~~said transformed cellular host~~ the resultant host cell under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

- harvesting said polypeptide.

68. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~any of claims 63 to 65~~ operably linked to prokaryotic, eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

69. (Previously Presented) An isolated host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 68.

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70. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 65 ~~any of claims 64 to 65~~.